

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 20, 2007

Ms. Julie Myers
Assistant Secretary
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
United States Department of Homeland Security
425 I Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20536

RE: Kentucky's request for participation in Section 287(g) program

Dear Assistant Secretary Myers:

As members of Congress representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the undersigned hereby endorse Governor Ernie Fletcher's request to participate in the Section 287(g) program and any other applicable or appropriate program, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and the Institutional Removal Program. Although we recognize that enforcement of immigration laws is primarily a responsibility of the federal government, we believe that state and local authorities can play a critical role in protecting homeland security and assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in the identification and detention of foreign-born criminals and immigration violators who pose a threat to national security or public safety.

The Governor's proposal will facilitate the training of state correctional officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions and ensure that criminal aliens incarcerated within Kentucky correctional facilities are not released into the community upon completion of their sentences. Under the 287(g) program proposed by Governor Fletcher, these criminal aliens will be identified and reported to ICE for processing.

We appreciate the difficulty of the tasks assigned to ICE and we recognize that resources are limited. Nevertheless, we agree with Governor Fletcher that the status quo presents an unacceptable public safety risk for our citizens. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to approve the proposed 287(g) partnership with the Kentucky Department of Corrections to enhance the effectiveness of ICE officers already in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of the Governor's important request.

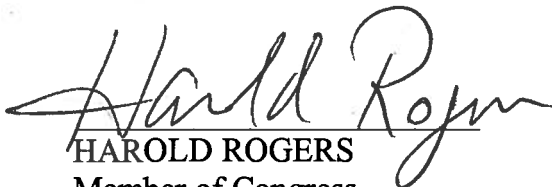
Sincerely,



MITCH MCCONNELL
United States Senator



JIM BUNNING
United States Senator



HAROLD ROGERS
Member of Congress



RON LEWIS
Member of Congress



ED WHITFIELD
Member of Congress



GEOFF DAVIS
Member of Congress

cc: Jerry Phillips, ICE Resident Agent in Charge for Kentucky